

## What Is the National Study of America's Adults?

The National Study of America's Adults, administered by the **National Center for Education Statistics**, is a nationwide study that is collecting information on the reading activities of adults in America aged 16 and older. Thousands of households like your own have been chosen to participate.

The interview will be conducted in your home by a trained field representative and will take about 90 minutes to complete. The first part of the study is a short interview that asks some general background questions. The remaining time will be spent completing activities using printed materials, such as a newspaper, brochure, and schedule.



## How Do I Know My Answers Will Be Kept Confidential?

Because it is the law! Not only do we respect your privacy and pledge to protect it, your rights to confidentiality are protected by Federal law under the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 USC 552a).

Results of the study will be presented in published reports in the form of percentages, totals, and averages in such a way that no person or family can be identified.

## How Will I Recognize The Field Representative?

The field representative who calls on you will be carrying identification authorized by the U.S. Department of Education, which looks like the card below.



## Any Further Questions?

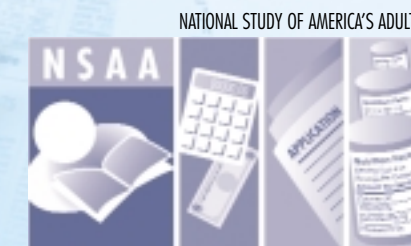
The field representative will be able to answer any questions you may have about this study when he or she visits your household. Or, you may call Terry Cooper at this National Study of America's Adults toll-free number: 1-888-738-6910. Additional information can also be found on the study web site: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/nsaa>.

**Thank You for Your Participation  
in this Important Study**



A project conducted by the U.S. Department of Education

# National Study of America's Adults



**The National Study of America's Adults will directly help your neighborhood and community by collecting information that will be used to plan for better education for all people.**

### **Why Is the U.S. Department of Education Conducting This Study?**

Rapid changes in technology make it necessary for adults of all ages to use printed information in new and more complex ways. For example, we have been faced with learning how to operate calculators and computers, filling out complicated tax forms, comparing unit price labels when shopping for groceries, and more.

The more skilled we are at using printed materials, the better we are



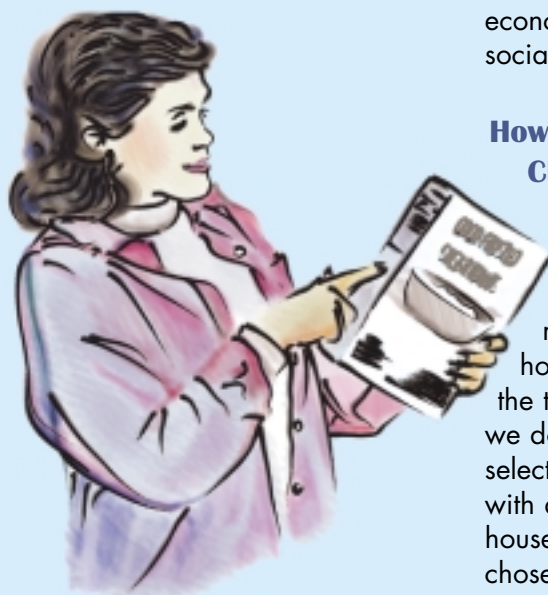
as a nation when it comes to participating in society at large, maintaining our standard of living, and competing with other nations around the world.

The National Study of America's Adults will provide information on how prepared America's adults are to learn and use the skills that will be needed in the years to come.

Educators, policymakers, and business leaders will use information from this study to help develop economic, education, and social policy.

### **How Was Our Household Chosen?**

Because interviewing every adult in America is far too expensive, we use statistical methods to randomly select household addresses to represent the total population. As a result, we do not know who lives in a selected household until we speak with a household member. In most households, one person will be chosen to be interviewed.



### **Why Should I Do This?**

Because your household represents many others throughout the country, your participation is very important. Participation is voluntary; however, because of the statistical methods used to select your household address, we cannot substitute another address for yours if you do not participate.

Think of America as a jigsaw puzzle. Many pieces are needed to complete this puzzle. Each particular puzzle piece has unique characteristics and no other puzzle piece could replace it. Your household is a vital piece of this puzzle and your participation will ensure that all households like yours are represented.

Please help us learn more about your community. Your participation in this study is truly a



service to your community, and the nation as a whole, as it will ensure that our nation's policymakers will be using the most complete information possible when making decisions that will affect all of us.



### **I Haven't Been in School in Years, and I Don't Work. I Don't Think I Can Help.**

Not so! It is very important that all adults in America be represented in this study. We need information from:

- Older adults as well as young people.
- Persons currently in the workforce and those who are retired or work at home.
- Persons who are currently in school and those who attended school many years ago.
- Persons who have had little formal education as well as those who have gone to school for many years.